

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR HEAT TREATING
A HOMOGENIZED FLUID PRODUCT**

ABSTRACT

A system and method for heat treating a homogenized fluid product, the method comprising the steps of feeding a stream of fluid product ingredients through a local constriction of flow to effectuate high shear mixing of the fluid product ingredients in a high shear mixing zone downstream from the local constriction of flow and thereby form a homogenized fluid product at a first temperature and introducing a sufficient amount of the homogenized fluid product at a second temperature, which is less than the first temperature, into the high shear mixing zone to effectuate mixing of the homogenized fluid product at the first temperature with the homogenized fluid product at the second temperature to thereby heat treat the homogenized fluid product fluid product.